

**VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS (AAFM)  
VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL (VPAC)  
February 16, 2016 MEETING MINUES**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Gary, Lené (by phone)  
Giguere, Cary  
Halman, Josh  
Hazelrigg, Ann  
Hoffman-Contois, Razelle  
LaValley, Jenn (Admin)  
Levey, Rick  
Shively, Andy

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bosworth, Sid  
Darrow, Casey  
Palmer, Eric

**GUESTS**

Linda Boccuzzo (AAFM)  
Alan Graham (AAFM)  
Patti Casey (AAFM)  
Craig Zondag

**Meeting Called to Order**

1:13 pm EST

**Meeting Adjourned**

3:50 pm EST

**Announcements**

- Minutes from the November 12, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved (A. Hazelrigg moved, A. Shively seconded; 6 yes, 1 abstention due to absence). Final minutes will be posted to the VPAC SharePoint.
- Minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved (C. Giguere moved, R. Levey seconded; 5 yes, 2 abstentions due to absence). Final minutes will be posted to the VPAC SharePoint.
- The VPAC SharePoint site continues to evolve and is at a point where a framework for use is warranted. Razelle Hoffman-Contois and Cary Giguere described that moving forward, the site will be used for posting of official documents (e.g., minutes) and technical information/peer reviewed documents pertinent to Council business. AAFM will develop by-laws for how public comments will be shared with the Council. For now, as has historically been the process, public comments should be e-mailed to Razelle for distribution to the Council.
- Razelle shared an e-mail communication from Matt Wood (AAFM Agricultural Resource Management Specialist Supervisor) regarding use of VT-Alert as a means of notification for when a permit for treatment within a Right-of-Way (ROW) has been initiated. Matt reports that according to Randy Bronson, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), no notifications have been issued in the "Environmental" Alerts category which is where ROW notifications would be housed. Thus, use of this category for ROW treatment notification is not expected to result in registered users receiving large quantities of unwanted information. Randy suggested that interested persons sign up for notification by text, e-mail, and/or individual phone call and there could be posting to the VT-Alert website and that the state-wide phone message feature be reserved for emergencies. The Council agreed. Cary agreed to work on establishing a process that can hopefully be in place in time for the 2016 ROW treatment season. Logistical issues such as timing of AAFM notification will need to be resolved e.g., revise to 2 business days. Patti Casey (AAFM Vector Management Coordinator) offered to assist Cary with development of a VT-Alert how-to/FAQ. Razelle offered to man sign up locations. Razelle would like the process in place, or well underway, by the next meeting. Cary will provide a status report at the March 2016 meeting.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Business**

**Mosquito Control** – The Council discussed a request from the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD), submitted through Alan Graham (AAFM State Entomologist), that FourStar Bti Sustained Release 45 Day and 150 Day Microbial Briquets (both with active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* Strain BMP 144 i.e., Bti) be recommended for addition to AAFM's Mosquito Larvicide Permit Application Procedure. Craig Zondag, representing the LFICD, described how these products would allow for land based treatment of small areas where high populations of mosquitos have traditionally been documented. Alan stated more than 100 larvae per cup of water are often found in these areas (threshold is 20). Other products may only be used to treat larger areas, leaving smaller hot spots unaddressed. The FourStar products were described as having extended staying power as the briquets sink rather than float, can be dried out but will reactivate during the next rain/flood event and a single briquet can treat up to 100 square feet. Application would primarily be by foot with canoes used to gain access to certain remote areas. Rick asked the maximum acreage treated per year by the LFICD. Mr. Zondag noted 50-150 acres is treated annually and that two areas in particular (one about 5 acres, the other 22 acres), may be appropriate for treatment with these products. Discussion of various aspects of these products, and mosquito larvae control in general, ensued. This included, but was not limited to, the potential for the product to overwinter, non-target impacts including how/if varying water column depth may impact nontarget species and toxicity, how long mosquito eggs remain viable in the environment, how these products differ from other Bti products, the concept of effective/release concentrations and Bti's mode of action. Cary and others questioned if the LFICD would be willing to flag a specific point of treatment observe and record how the material behaves in the environment over time and provide the Council with a status report. Mr. Zondag did not object. Cary noted that use of these products may reduce the need for the LFICD to hire out of state aerial applicators. The Council questioned what allowed for the increased longevity of the 150 day product. Alan agreed to make inquiries and report back to the Council [*n.b.* in a 2/17/16 e-

mail to Razelle, Alan shared the following from Ted Bean, Mosquito Control Consultant with ADAPCO “The 150 day briquette is larger and therefore takes longer to dissolve. Once the Bti toxins release from the briquette they are short lived (maybe a day or so) in the environment.”]. The administrative and procedural aspects of revising the Larvicide Procedure were discussed. Rick shared detailed comparisons he’d made between the proposed products and Bti products currently in the Procedure. His research did not identify concerns for nontargets, especially with regard to the 45 Day product. Razelle stated her review of the active ingredient indicated the proposed use is expected to result in negligible risk to public. A review of inerts is expected to be completed shortly. She asked how the intended use would comply with the label requirement that the formulated products may not be applied to treated, finished drinking water reservoirs or drinking water receptacles when such use is intended for human consumption. Mr. Zondag described how the mode of application, isolation of application sites and distance to any potential drinking water source ensures that this label requirement will be met. Cary moved that the Council vote to recommend to the Secretary of AAFM that both products be added to the Larvicide Procedure if review of the inerts indicates the proposed use is expected to result in negligible risk to public health. Rick seconded. The Council agreed. Razelle will report the result of the inert review as soon as completed [*n.b.* in a 2/19/16 e-mail to Razelle, Sarah Vose, State Toxicologist, reported that based on the proposed use, potential exposure to the inerts should not pose a risk to public health].

### **Vegetation Control within Railroad Rights-of-Way**

The Council continued discussion of vegetation control efforts within railroad Rights-of-Way (ROW) in Vermont, in particular, along the portion of the Washington County line (part of the Vermont Rail System) that runs through a heavily populated area in downtown Montpelier. Lené Gary provided an overview of her extensive research on current vegetation management practices in North America which included consideration of chemical and non-chemical means of control. As Chair of the original alternatives workgroup, Lené was able to identify any potential advances/new information since that committee sunset. In summary, although more information is available, no long-term, non-chemical only means of control has been found to be viable. After much discussion, it was agreed that the Council will draft a summary of what has been learned during the recent, intensive, updated review of vegetation management practices and options within railroad ROWs. Various Council members agreed to develop various sections and submit to Razelle for incorporation into a single draft for discussion at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2016 1 pm Montpelier National Life Main Building, Winooski Room M240